

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 /018 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS: RBMORLEY

APPROVED BY NEA: ADUBS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, USINJC, IN, US

SUBJECT: BALL MISSION TO INDIA

REF: STATE 35629, STATE 20002

1. GEORGE BALL CALLED DEPARTMENT (NEA/INS) MARCH 10 AND INFORMED US THAT HE IS PLANNING TO TRAVEL TO INDIA THIS WEEKEND. HE EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN NEW DELHI MONDAY, MARCH 15 AT 5:45 A.M. VIA BOAC, AND WILL BE ACCOMPANIED (AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED) BY DR. AUSTIN SMITH, FORMER PMA PRESIDENT, AND PROFESSOR ROBERT MEAGHER OF TUFTS UNIVERSITY. ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT ARE BEING MADE THROUGH INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. GROUP PLANS TO STAY AT INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL AND TO DEPART NEW DELI MARCH 19.

2. ACCORDING BALL, AMBASSADOR KAUL HAS NOT PROMISED APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER BUT HAS DESCRIBED PROSPECTS AS GOOD. AMBASSADOR HAS RECOMMENDED TO BALL THAT HE GO TO DELHI ON THIS BASIS. BALL EXPECTS TO MEET WITH OTHER OFFICIALS AS WELL, BUT WAS UNCLEAR WHO THEY WOULD BE.

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3. BALL CONSIDERS THIS A PURELY PRIVATE VISIT DURING WHICH HE WILL TRY TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH DIALOGUE ON US COMPANY PROBLEMS IN INDIA CAN BE INITIATED.

HE DOES NOT HOPE TO COME AWAY FROM DELHI WITH CONCRETE GOI DECISIONS IN HAND, BUT HOPES HIS VISIT WILL IMPROVE CLIMATE IN WHICH SUCH GOI DECISIONS WILL BE MADE. HE DEFINITELY DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE ANY PUBLICITY ASSOCIATED WITH VISIT, AND PLANS NO PRESS RELEASE OR PRESS CONFERENCE.

4. BALL INDICATED HE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE DURING VISIT. KISSINGER

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